(c) Yes, Sir, However, we are also working to develop international civil nuclear cooperation to bring in additionalities to nuclear electricity generation programme.

Self-reliance in the field of Atomic Energy

1789. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of fuel for atomic plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is having any plan to become self-reliant in the field of Atomic Energy to ensure the atomic autonomy; and

(d) if so, by when the country is likely to become self-reliant in the field of atomic fuel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is a mismatch at present between supply and demand of fuel for the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors.

(b) Improved operation of Nuclear power reactors, reduction in gestation period of reactors under constructions and unanticipated delays in opening of new uranium mines has created a gap in supply and demand at present.

(c) Yes, Sir. Technologically we are already self-reliant.

(d) Augmentation of uranium supply for the reactors in operation and future first stage reactors is receiving the attention of the Government at the highest level. Resulting out of these efforts the situation will progressively improve in the Eleventh Plan. The installed nuclear power capacity will be enhanced progressively.

Coal blocks allocated for new power plants

†1790. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocs allocated in October, 2006-07 for setting up coal-based new power plants in the private sector;

(b) the volume of coal reserves in the Chhattisgarh State in the country; and

(c) the time-frame within which power-plants are to be set up by the companies which had been allocated coal blocks in Chhattisgarh and other State (Jharkhand)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) 11 coal blocks with reserves of about 2238.18 million tonnes have been allocated since October, 2006 for setting up of new power projects in the private sector.

(b) The volume of coal reserves as on 01.01.2007 in the State of Chhattisgarh is about 41450 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As per the conditions of allocation, development of a power plant has to be synchronous with development of the linked coal block. Coal production from the captive block shall commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mine and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls under forest land) in case of UG mine, from the date of allocation. If the captive coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report.

Coal deposits found in the country

†1791. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that evidences of 99 billion tonnes of coal deposits have been found in the country;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only 430 million tonnes of coal had been produced in the year 2006-07 which was less than the requirement of the country;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the gap between the demand and supply of coal at the end of the Eleventh Plan is expected to increase in comparison to the present gap; if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates of Geological Survey of India as on 1.4. 2007, the geological coal resources of the country stand at 257.38 billion tonnes of which 99 billion tonnes of reserves fall in proved category.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the period 2006-07 the actual production of coal was 430.86 million tonnes as against the projected demand of 474.18 million tonnes and actual coal offtake of 464.5 million tonnes.

(e) Yes, Sir. The gap between the demand and supply of coal in the terminal year 2011-12 of the Eleventh Plan is projected to be 51.10 million tonnes as against the actual gap of 33.64 million tonnes in the terminal year 2006-07 of the Tenth Plan.

Coal wash capacity in India

1792. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal wash capacity in the country at present is only 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the total production;

(b) if not, the details of his capacity in March, 2007;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this capacity is up to 80 per cent in coal export countries of the world;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.